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CW(ws) - January 21/14
Item 2

Vaughan Sign By-law Election Sign Review

Citizens First Through Service Excellence

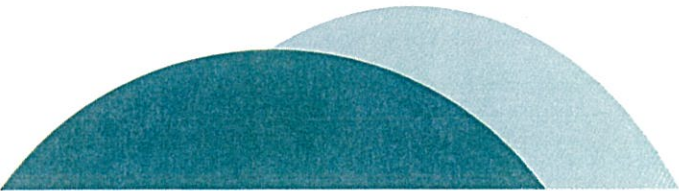
Election Signs

Sign By-law # 203-92, as amended

January 21, 2014

By-law & Compliance Department

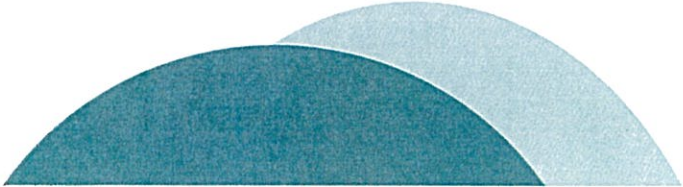




Background

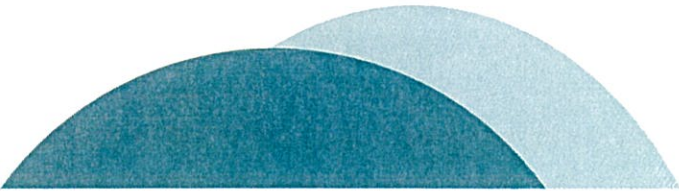
June 26, 2012 - City Council directed staff to:

- ✓ Undertake a review of existing By-law as it relates to election signs
- ✓ Negotiate with the Region with the intent of harmonizing related by-laws and enforcement activities
- ✓ Develop options on improving enforcement for election signage
- ✓ Provide a forum for past candidates, public and other stakeholders to discuss issues related to election signage



Purpose & Scope

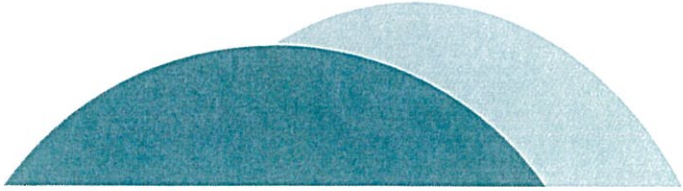
- ✓ Provide comparative of other municipalities
- ✓ Provide an update regarding negotiations with the Region in respect to harmonizing related by-laws and enforcement activities
- ✓ Provide outcome of public consultation meeting
- ✓ Present findings to enable Council to make informed decisions re: “level playing field” for all candidates



Consultation Outcome

Common Themes

- ✓ Size of Signage
- ✓ Placement
- ✓ Enforcement
- ✓ Challenges associated with site lines at intersections
- ✓ Use of Private Property
- ✓ Use of Municipal Property
- ✓ City vs Regional Roads
- ✓ Varied By-law regulations across Municipalities

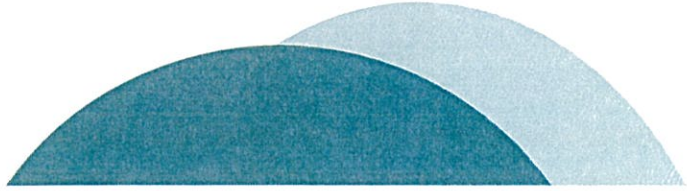


Existing By-law Regulations

Non-Refundable Fees

- ✓ Mayoral and Regional Councillor Candidates: **\$300**
- ✓ Ward Councillor Candidates: **\$150**
- ✓ School Board Trustee Candidates: **\$50**

**Only Registered Candidates are permitted to post signs*



Size Restrictions

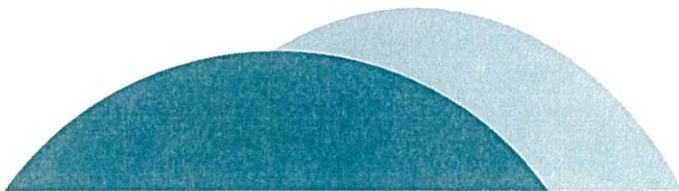
- ✓ Signs shall not exceed **5.0** square metres in size

Timing

- ✓ Signs may not be erected prior to Nomination Day
- ✓ Once non-refundable sign deposit fee is paid, signs can be erected after 2:00 p.m. following the close of Nomination Day on **September 12, 2014**
- ✓ All signs must be removed 48 hours following the date of the election

Sign Size

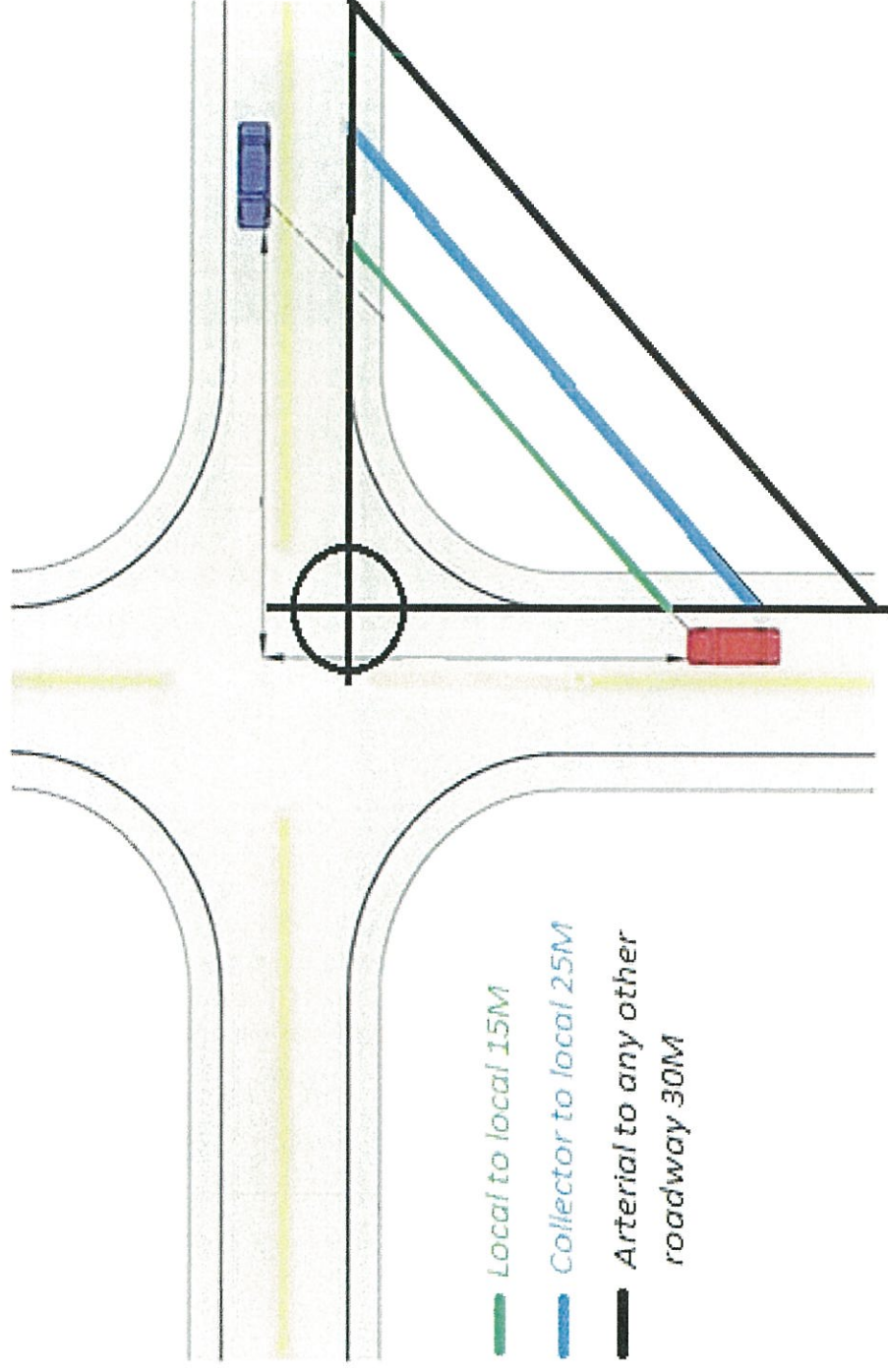
SIGN SIZE	
Options	1. Establish a consistent signs size for all municipalities within the Region 2. Amend Vaughan's Sign By-Law reducing size of sign to mirror Regional By-law (from 5 sq. m to 1.49 sq. m.)
Benefits	• Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement • Simplified enforcement • Clearer for candidates • Consistent with Regional Roads
Challenges	• Harmonizing by-laws will require consensus amongst all municipalities • Limits the size of sign for candidates who wish to invest in larger signage
Expected Results	• Consistent regulations within all Regional Municipalities • Consistent regulations within the City



Private Property Restrictions

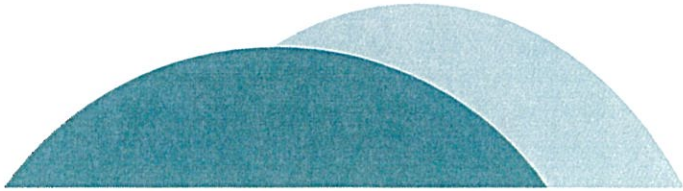
- ✓ Set back a minimum of 1 metre from all street lines
- ✓ Signs to be set back a minimum of 1.5 metres from any common lot boundary with an adjacent lot
- ✓ Shall not be placed in a home window prior to 2:00 p.m. on Nomination Day
- ✓ Shall not be placed on a “daylight triangle”

Daylight Triangle Restrictions



Daylight Triangles

DAYLIGHT TRIANGLES			
Options	1. Delineate permitted areas at each Intersection across the Region	1. Harmonize all sight line triangles for all roadways, establishing one distance requirement	
Benefits	• Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement	• Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement	
Challenges	• Increased demands on resources (City & Region) • Increased cost • Time consuming • On-going maintenance	• More restrictive for candidates	
Expected Results	• Clear indication of where a sign may be placed • Implementation across the City (and/or Region) would require dedicated time, resources and appropriate funding	• Reduction in proliferation of signs at intersections • Consistency • Unobstructed sight lines for vehicular and pedestrian traffic	



Municipal Property Restrictions

- ✓ Signs may not be erected on municipally owned property or on public road allowances

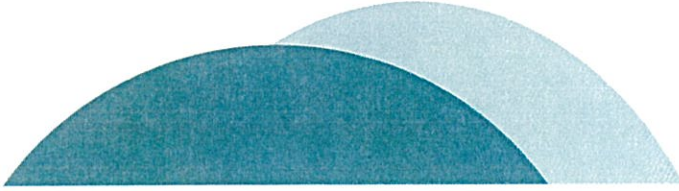
* “Municipal property” refers to land owned or operated by the City of Vaughan, including City owned libraries and community centres.

Use of Municipal Property

Use of Municipal Property - Community Centres		
Options	1. Permit the use of designated areas at Community Centre Properties	1. Do Not permit the use of Community Centre Properties (Current Vaughan By-law Standard)
Benefits	Increases options for candidates	- Clearer regulations - Clearer for candidates - Simplified enforcement
Challenges	- Increased demands on resources - Increased costs - Time consuming	Limits options for candidates
Expected Results	- Proliferation of signs - Difficult to regulate and ensure compliance - Impact to service delivery	Simplified enforcement

Use of Public Property

ROAD ALLOWANCE		
Options	1. Permit use of City Road Allowance	1. Do Not permit use of City Road Allowance (Current Vaughan By-law Standard)
Benefits	Increases options for candidates	- Clear regulations - Clear for candidates - Simplified enforcement
Challenges	- Increased demands on enforcement resources - Increased costs - Time consuming	- Proliferation of unlawful signs - Storage of confiscated signs
Expected Results	- Difficult to regulate and ensure compliance - Impact on service delivery	Simplified enforcement



Voting Location Restrictions

- ✓ No signs may be placed within 100 metres of a property designated by the City Clerk
- ✓ Electioneering is the act of campaigning or attempting to solicit votes and is not permitted within 100 metres of a designated voting location. This includes, but is not limited to, prohibition for displaying of signs



Campaign Offices

- ✓ Any related signs erected on the property must adhere to the applicable sections of the City of Vaughan Sign By-law provisions
- ✓ Signs requiring permits (e.g. wall signs, etc.) are administered through the Building Standards Department

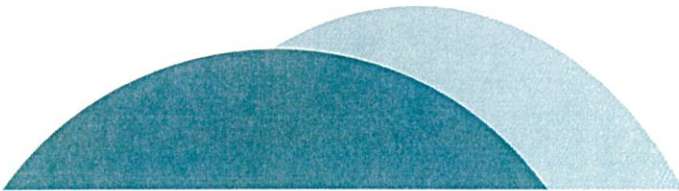


Unlawful Signs

- ✓ Erected on municipal property
- ✓ Erected prior to Nomination Day (pertains to private, public and campaign office properties)
- ✓ Placed closer than 1.0 metre from street lines and less than 1.5 metres from any common lot boundary
- ✓ Banner signs

Prosecution / Removal of Signs

PROSECUTION / REMOVAL OF SIGNS		
Options	1. Prosecute for Violations	1. Removal and disposal of signs (no requirement to store signs)
Benefits	• Consistent • Deter violations	• Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement • No storage requirements • Deter placing of unlawful signs on public property – road allowances
Challenges	• Expensive to manage/prosecute • Time consuming • Increased demands on resources (Enforcement, Regional Prosecutions and Regional Courts)	• Candidates will incur additional costs to replace confiscated signs
Expected Results	• Enforcement, legal and Court resource inefficiencies	• Reduction in proliferation of unlawful signs • Reduction in service demands



Regional Road Requirements

By-Law # R-1232-2000-074

- ✓ Size cannot exceed 1.49 square metres
- ✓ Signs cannot be erected prior to 6 weeks before election
- ✓ No more than 1 sign is permitted per registered candidate on any one street corner
- ✓ Unlawful signs will be removed and stored for a period of 30 days
- ✓ Signs must be removed from Regional roads 72 hours after date of election (12:01 am on October 30th, 2014)
- ✓ Signs not retrieved will be destroyed by Region

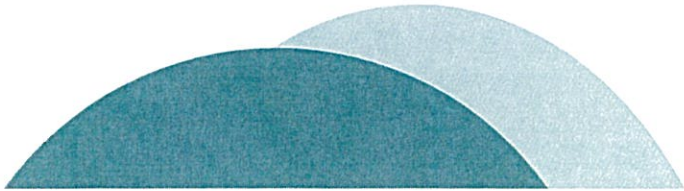
Varying By-law

MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN YORK REGION		
Options	1. Harmonized By-laws	1. Harmonize Vaughan's By-law with the Region (only)
Benefits	• Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement	• Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement
Challenges	• Harmonizing by-laws will require consensus amongst all municipalities & the Region • Time consuming • Requires dedication of resources	• Harmonizing by-laws will require consensus from the Region • Time consuming • Requires dedication of resources
Expected Results	• Consistent regulations within all Regional Municipalities	• Consistent regulations across the City



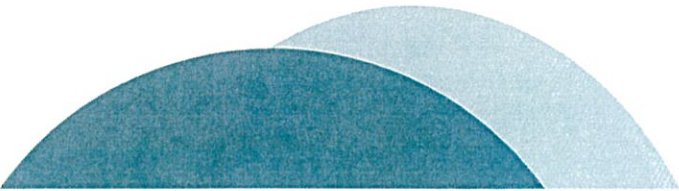
Enforcement Strategy 2014

- ✓ Five dedicated enforcement officers will patrol City streets pro-actively and ensure timely responses to complaints
- ✓ Additional resources may be deployed as needed
- ✓ Direct in-field supervisory support
- ✓ Enhanced service delivery – all complaints relating to election signage treated as priority calls and dispatched to enforcement officers



Enforcement Strategy 2014

- ✓ Improved partnership with Access Vaughan will enable timely and efficient complaint intake, response to inquiries and information sharing
- ✓ Improved coordination with Regional staff
- ✓ Improved coordination with City of Toronto regarding complaints on Steeles Avenue



Enforcement Strategy 2014

Unlawful Signs

- ✓ Removed by City Enforcement Officers and held for a period of 30 days
- ✓ Signs not retrieved within the 30 day period will be disposed
- ✓ Confiscated signs will be stored at a central location to be determined
- ✓ Retrieval of signs by candidates will be accommodated by appointment through the By-law & Compliance Department

MUNICIPAL COMPARATIVE CHART – Election Sign Restrictions

Municipality	Max. Size	# Days Prior to Election to Erect Signs	# Hours for Removal Following Election	Unlawful Sign Placement Removal	Candidate Fees	Restriction on #Signs Permitted in One Area	Signs Permitted on Public Property
Region of York	1.49 sq. m.	6 weeks	72	✓ 30 days, \$50 sign retrieval fee	✓ Yes	✓ No more than 1 sign on any one street corner	✓ Regional Roads
Vaughan	5.0 sq. m.	close of nomination day	48	✓ 30 days then disposed of	✓ \$300 per mayoral/ regional candidate, \$150 per ward candidate	× No	× No
Markham	1.49 sq. m.	4 weeks	72	✓ \$10 deducted from \$200 deposit for every sign unlawfully displayed	✓ \$200 deposit	✓ No more than 1 sign on any one street corner or on private property	✓ only by permit

MUNICIPAL COMPARATIVE CHART – Election Sign Restrictions Continued

Municipality	Max. Size	# Days Prior to Election to Erect Signs	# Hours for Removal Following Election	Unlawful Sign Placement Removal	Candidate Fees	Restriction on #Signs Permitted in One Area	Signs Permitted on Public Property
Richmond Hill	1.49 sq. m.	On nomination day	72 hours	✓ 30 days after election, after which signs are destroyed with no compensation to the owner	✓ Election sign fee \$250 ✓ Filing fee \$200 Mayor, \$100 for all other	× No	✓ only if sign is portable & abides by by-law restrictions
Aurora	2 sq. m.	As per Municipal Elections Act	4 days	✓ no specified timeline	✓ Filing Fee \$200 Mayor, \$100 for all other	× No	✓ only if sign abides by by-law restrictions
Georgina	2 sq. m.	At the close of nomination day	7 days	✓ Sign held for 30 days, after which signs are destroyed	✓ Filing Fee \$200 Mayor, \$100 for all other	× No	✓ On public property adjacent to roadway not on town property

MUNICIPAL COMPARATIVE CHART – Election Sign Restrictions Continued

Municipality	Max. Size	# Days Prior to Election to Erect Signs	# Hours for Removal Following Election	Unlawful Sign Placement Removal	Candidate Fees	Restriction on #Signs Permitted in One Area	Signs Permitted on Public Property
Whitchurch / Stouffville	2 sq.m	25 days	3 days	✓ Sign held for 30 days, after which signs are destroyed. \$10 per sign deducted from deposit for each unlawfully placed sign	✓ \$245 sign permit deposit fee	x No	✓ On public property adjacent to roadway not on town property
East Gwillimbury	No size restriction	On nomination day	72 hours	✓ Sign held for 30 days, after which signs are destroyed	✓ Filing Fee \$200 Mayoral, \$100 for all other	x No	✓ Only if sign abides by by-law restrictions
King * New By-law not available	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

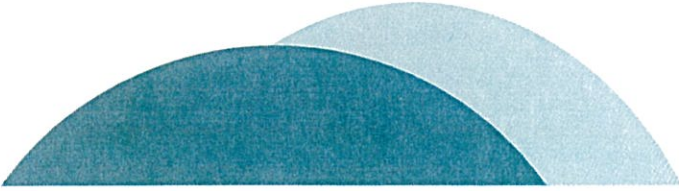
MUNICIPAL COMPARATIVE CHART – Election Sign Restrictions Continued

Municipality	Max. Size	# Days Prior to Election to Erect Signs	# Hours for Removal Following Election	Unlawful Sign Placement Removal	Candidate Fees	Restriction on #Signs Permitted in One Area	Signs Permitted on Public Property
Newmarket Note: By-law under review, website states updates coming in 2014	2.97 sq. m.	30 days prior to election	48 hours	✓ 30 days after election after which signs are destroyed. Minimum charge of \$75 per sign to owner, plus \$5 per sign retrieval fee	✓ Filing Fee \$200 Mayoral, \$100 for all other	x No	✓ Only on or adjacent to private property
Toronto (bordering municipality)	1.2 sq. m.	25	72	✓ 30 days, \$25 deducted from candidates' campaign deposit	✓ \$250 deposit per candidate	X No	✓ only on HWYS or TTC ad space approved by TTC



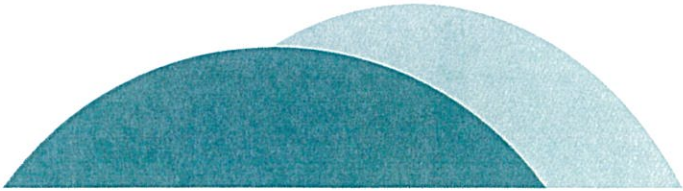
Steeles Avenue

- ✓ Road allowances on both the North and South sides of Steeles Avenue fall within the jurisdiction of the City of Toronto
- ✓ Governed by the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 693 and enforced by the Municipal Licensing & Standards Division
- ✓ Complaints/inquiries regarding signs should be directed to the Municipal Licensing & Standards Division by contacting 3-1-1
- ✓ Access Vaughan and By-law & Compliance Departments to inform complainants of City contact information



Complaints & Inquiries

- ✓ Information or complaints regarding unlawful election signs on City of Vaughan roads can be directed to Access Vaughan by calling 905-832-2281, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- ✓ For information or complaints regarding Regional roads, contact the Road Maintenance Division at 1-877-464-9675, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Questions?

Q & A